

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

REC ROOM INC,

Plaintiff,

v.

M.Z.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C23-1586-KKE

ORDER DIRECTING DEFENDANT TO  
OBTAIN COUNSEL

This matter comes before the Court sua sponte. On October 17, 2023, Plaintiff Rec Room Inc. filed this complaint against, M.Z., a minor domiciled in British Columbia. Dkt. No. 1. By emailing his answer to the Court, Olga Plotnikova, M.Z.'s mother, is deemed to be acting as M.Z.'s representative under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(c).<sup>1</sup> See Dkt. No. 19 (Defendant's answer submitted by Ms. Plotnikova objecting to, *inter alia*, this Court's personal jurisdiction). The Ninth Circuit requires non-attorneys representing minors to obtain legal counsel. *Johns v. Cty. of San Diego*, 114 F.3d 874, 877 (9th Cir. 1997) ("[A] non-attorney parent must be represented by counsel in bringing an action on behalf of his or her child.").

Accordingly, M.Z. has 30 days in which to obtain legal counsel to defend him in this action. By June 5, 2024, M.Z., through his representative, must file a status report with the Court

<sup>1</sup> To the extent Ms. Plotnikova does not agree to act as M.Z.'s representative, she must inform the Court of this decision immediately so that a guardian ad litem can be appointed.

1 identifying defense counsel or, if unsuccessful in obtaining counsel, a status report detailing the  
2 efforts taken to obtain counsel.

3 The Clerk is instructed to mail a copy of this order to Defendant's last known address and  
4 email a copy to the email address [oplotnikova@gmail.com](mailto:oplotnikova@gmail.com).

5 Dated this 6th day of May, 2024.

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9 United States District Judge  
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